

MINUTES
KICKAPOO RESERVE MANAGEMENT BOARD
KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE VISITOR CENTER
April 21, 2022

- I. 7:00 PM Meeting called to order by Chair Dick Wallin. Read Land Acknowledgement Statement.
- Board members in attendance: Susan Cushing, Julie Hoel, Scott Lind, AJ Mann, Reggie Nelson, Dick Wallin. Board members via Zoom: Tina Brown, Bill Quackenbush. Absent: Travis Downing, Luke Zahm. Staff in-person: Erica Cronk, Jonel Kiesau, Jason Leis, Scott Walter, Jackie Yocum. Audience in-person: Lonnie Muller, Episcopo News; Brad Steinmetz, local citizen. Audience via Zoom: Marcia Bader, Friends of Kickapoo Valley Reserve (FKVR); Joan Peterson, FKVR Board Member; Bonnie Sherman, Epitaph News; Julia Buckingham, Kickapoo Valley Forest School (KVFS) Lead Teacher
 - Motion by Cushing/Mann to approve the agenda. Unanimous. Motion carries.
 - Compliance with open meeting law: Walter -Yes, agenda posted in compliance with State law.
 - Public Input: Walter read aloud letter submitted from a member of the public in support of banning neonicotinoids on Kickapoo Valley Reserve (KVR) property.
- II. Lind/Hoel motion to approve the February 17, 2022 minutes. Unanimous. Motion carries.
- III. Informational Items.
- Allowable Use of Visitor Center Surroundings by Visitors and Others [review slide on screen]. Lind: getting a sense for what KRMB finds as acceptable. Discussion. Wallin: agrees does not care for chalk on sidewalks. Hoel: some school groups use chalk as part of curriculum. Quackenbush: nothing simple housekeeping cannot take care of. Brown: chalk is okay, but cleanliness of deck area is another issue; put process in place for keeping clean. Cushing: need to consider the precedence it sets allowing chalk, etc. Quackenbush: need some level of formality as a state facility co-managed with a tribal nation; develop something in writing. Kiesau: students are now only using back part of sidewalk away from entrance. Education & Tourism will develop recommendation for KRMB regarding allowable use of visitor center grounds.
 - Cooperative Agreement between DOA-BFM and KRMB [handout]. Walter: just bringing to the KRMB attention. Walter/Cronk reviewed document between State of Wisconsin DOA, Bureau of Financial Management, and KRMB for the purpose of documenting the responsibilities of both entities about accounting, auditing, and internal control activities. Walter will e-sign agreement.
 - Update on KVFS 2nd Year Facilities Project. Walter: have been coordinating with Friends board to work through the flow of money. Received \$175,000.00 of support from Prairie Spring: Paul Fleckenstein Trust. Friends board met with architect August Hagen at their April 18th meeting. August starting to develop plans and concept plan for how the next two buildings will work. Walter is on State Building Commission agenda for May 4. Do not anticipate roadblocks. Second building will not be ready to occupy by September 1st. Coming up with alternative plan where the students will temporarily go. One option is using the lotus bell tent KVFS purchased last year.
 - Summary of Forest Management Panel & Discussion of Next Steps. Walter: wondering about developing a Forest Management plan or a full-blown Land Management plan. Two of the panelists stressed the importance of KVR property – already a State Natural Area. What are the next steps? Maxwell: in favor of moving forward with some sort of plan. Wallin agrees. Lind echoes those comments but prefers Ecosystem Management Plan. Walter: discussion will go back to Land Management Committee to determine who should participate, goals, timelines, etc.
 - Expiring KRMB member terms. Walter: Hoel, Maxwell, Downing, Cushing, and Brown terms expiring in 2022. Let Walter know if continuing and he will email the link to apply. Cushing: seen a lot of members come and go. This is a solid KRMB and encourage everyone to keep it up.

- Budget Update [handout]. Walter: review budget as of April 18, 2022. Twenty percent of Fiscal Year (FY) remains. Staff looking ahead to upcoming expenses and revenue sources in this FY. 16100 base allocation has 37% remaining; 12100 revenue appropriation 28%; 12400 enforcement appropriation 31%. Overall, doing very well and will likely have a carryover in the 12100 account.

IV. Action Agenda (Decision Items)

- Agricultural Lease Policy. Wallin: Land Management (LM) Committee has been meeting on this topic for months weighing pros and cons to banning use of KVR property. Gathered information and heard from several different professionals. Largest lease holder understood LM perspective and would bid accordingly. After careful deliberation, LM voted to ban use of neonicotinoid treated seeds starting with the 2023 crop year. Lind/Mann motion to ban use of neonicotinoid treated seeds starting with the 2023 growing season. Downing sent a written response saying he was in favor of the ban as well. Unanimous. Motion carries.

V. Education & Tourism Committee – Next meeting April 2, 2022.

VI. Land Management Update – Next meeting May 10, 2022.

- Leis: will be working on getting Ag Lease contracts updated and ready to send out for bids as well as details on enforcing neonics ban. Lind: committee also discussed need to communicate this with public.

VII. Friends of KVR Update. Peterson: next Friends event is Volunteer Appreciation planned for Friday, May 13th at the La Farge Community Park Shelter. Friends also busy planning other upcoming events this summer/fall. Have been working with Walter/Kiesau facilitating construction of second KVFS classroom.

VIII. Other issues:

- Recognition of Cushing for her 18+ years on the KRMB. She was an integral part of the KRMB being involved in many aspects which includes: the dark sky initiative, developing Lichen program, assisting in exhibits upgrade to name a few.
- Board member matters or requests for future agenda items. Lind: Dark Sky update

IX. Next KRMB meeting May 19, 2022.

Cushing/Maxwell motion to convene to closed session, pursuant to s. 19.185(1)(c) of Wisconsin State Statutes: *considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.*

Pursuant to s. 19.185(1)(e) of Wisconsin State Statutes: *Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.*

Meeting adjourned into closed session 8:18 PM.

Recorded by: Erica Cronk